

Message

**From:** ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]  
**Sent:** 12/21/2018 6:53:02 PM  
**To:** Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** ECOS Taps Welsh as Executive Director, Utah's Matheson Spreads Holiday Cheer, & More

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## ECOSWIRE

Friday, December 21, 2018

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### Table of Contents

- [ECOS Names State & U.S. EPA Veteran Welsh to Serve as Executive Director](#)
- [Cole Tapped for Wisconsin DNR Secretary as Stevens Readies for Departure](#)

- [ELI Cites ECOS Efforts in Cooperative Federalism Report](#)
  - [Get a Jump on the New Year & Register Now for Spring Meeting](#)
  - [U.S. EPA Funding Hangs in the Balance over Border Wall](#)
  - [State News You Can Use](#)
  - [Need-to-Know News in Air & Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants](#)
  - [E-Enterprise for the Environment](#)
  - [Upcoming Events](#)
- 

*ECOSWIRE will not be published on December 28 and will resume publication on January 4. Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season!*

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## **ECOS Names State & U.S. EPA Veteran Welsh to Serve as Executive Director**



*Donald S. Welsh*

ECOS announced on December 17 that the role of Executive Director will be filled by Donald S. Welsh, a former Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Deputy Secretary and U.S. EPA Region 3 Administrator, effective January 2.

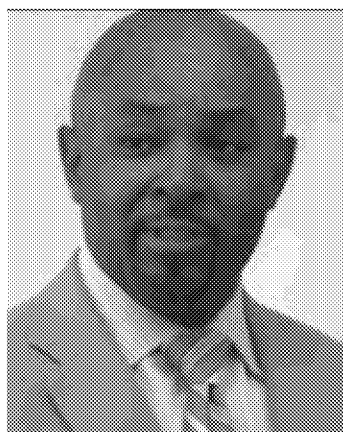
"Don's experience in leadership roles in state environmental protection and at U.S. EPA provides him the ideal background to lead ECOS as we work to implement Cooperative Federalism 2.0," said ECOS President Becky Keogh of Arkansas. "His demonstrated skills in building and maintaining successful partnerships to achieve environmental results will be valuable to the association in our efforts to improve the capability of state environmental agency leaders and their staff to protect and improve human health and the environment."

Appointed in 2013 by the Governor of Pennsylvania to the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) to the Pennsylvania DEP, Welsh has served since 2017 as its Chairman. Welsh also currently serves as a voting member of the Environmental Quality Board, which adopts environmental regulations in Pennsylvania. He was President & Chief Executive Officer of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in 2009 until 2010. His service as U.S. EPA Region 3 Regional Administrator ran from 2001 to 2009, and from 1995 until 2001, Welsh held several positions at the Pennsylvania DEP including Deputy Secretary for State/Federal Relations. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania.

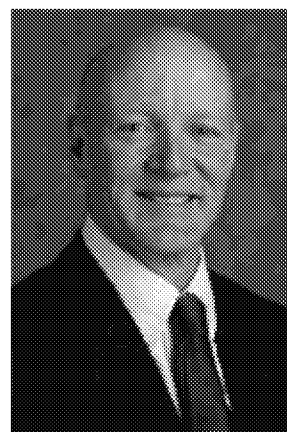
As an alumnus of ECOS, Welsh will be instrumental in helping member states develop consensus while preserving states' diversity in environmental policy. He has direct experience in organizational management and in creating measurable environmental results. "I am excited to work with Don to continue our collective efforts to advance science-based decisions," added ECOS Vice President Jim Macy of Nebraska.

The CAC currently chaired by Welsh conducts independent oversight of the Pennsylvania DEP, participates in the development of regulations, and provides advice on environmental matters to the department, the Governor, the General Assembly, and the federal congressional delegation. "Under his tenure, the council conducted a systematic review of the major regulatory programs of DEP to provide input on program priorities and efficiencies," said ECOS Secretary-Treasurer Patrick McDonnell of Pennsylvania. "Don has been a tremendous partner and public servant to the citizens of Pennsylvania, and I look forward to his contributions to advance the states' roles at this exciting time for ECOS and our nation." [Parisien]

## **Cole Tapped for Wisconsin DNR Secretary as Stevens Readies for Departure**



*Preston Cole*



*Pat Stevens*

Wisconsin Governor-Elect Tony Evers announced December 19 his selection of Preston Cole to serve as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Currently Commissioner of Neighborhood Services in Milwaukee, Cole is a longtime member of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board, which advises the DNR, having been

appointed by Democratic Governor Jim Doyle and then reappointed by Republican Governor Scott Walker. He has a degree in forest management. Cole's appointment is subject to state Senate confirmation.

ECOS wishes a fond farewell to Assistant Deputy Secretary Pat Stevens, who departs the DNR January 7. A recipient of the 2018 ECOS President's Award for his significant contributions, Stevens chaired the ECOS Cooperative Federalism 2.0 Oversight Workgroup and has spent two years as Planning Committee Chair. He also has served on the ECOS Executive Committee. [Parisien]

## **ELI Cites ECOS Efforts in Cooperative Federalism Report**

This fall, the Environmental Law Institute (ELI) published *The Macbeth Report: Cooperative Federalism in the Modern Era*, examining the state-federal relationship in environmental protection. The report builds on and heavily cites ECOS' *Cooperative Federalism 2.0: Achieving and Maintaining a Clean Environment and Protecting Public Health*. It looks at areas of potential consensus on realignment of the state-federal relationship.

Based on discussions and a survey, it offers recommendations in seven areas for reform of the environmental enterprise:

- Address the Whipsaw Effect
- Pilot the Audit Concept First
- Refine Enforcement
- Deploy Elevation Protocols
- Provide Adequate Resources
- Engage Downwind/Downstream States
- Harness Private Environmental Governance and Technology Drivers

[Hanson]

## **Get a Jump on the New Year & Register Now for Spring Meeting**



Get a jump on the New Year and register today for the 2019 ECOS Spring Meeting in Crystal City, Virginia. Join us **April 8-10** for a firsthand look at *Partnership in Action: Advancing Collaboration, Certainty, & Confidence!*

Having secured a seat at the table through the ECOS Cooperative Federalism 2.0 initiative, states now are working with U.S. EPA and other federal partners to deepen shared decision-making, shared problem-solving, and shared programmatic development. Featured speakers on these matters will include ECOS members, EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler (invited), and other federal officials and congressional leaders.

In the spirit of collaboration, the gathering also will include a dinner reception at the Canadian Embassy on April 9.

See the draft agenda and registration, hotel, and contact information [here](#). Register by **March 1** to take advantage of the early bird rate, and reserve at the special ECOS rate at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel by **March 18** or while supply lasts. [Parisien]

**Sponsorship Opportunities Announced for  
2019 ECOS Meetings**

ECOS has an exciting conference lineup in 2019! In addition to the **April 8-10** Spring Meeting in Crystal City, Virginia, a **July 10** STEP Meeting in Washington, DC and a September 24-26 Fall Meeting in Seattle, Washington are planned. Learn more about sponsorship opportunities [here](#), and contact [Lia Parisien](#) with any questions.

[Parisien]

## U.S. EPA Funding Hangs in the Balance over Border Wall

With hours to go before the midnight expiration of funding for several federal government agencies including U.S. EPA, legislators are scrambling to settle on a bill to avert a partial federal government shutdown. The Senate passed a temporary continuing resolution on December 19, but before the House could vote on it, President Trump rejected the measure due to its lack of border wall funding. The House on December 20 passed a measure that provides \$5.7B for a border wall, but it does not appear to have the votes needed in the Senate.

In the event of a lapse in funding, EPA will remain open next week by using carryover funds. Should a shutdown remain in effect after next week, EPA will reassess its status.

Also earlier this week, President Trump declared December 24 a holiday for federal workers. Because ECOS follows the federal schedule, the ECOS office will be closed that day as well. [McAleer]

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## **State News You Can Use**

[Nine States & DC Design Regional Approach on Transportation Sector GHGs](#)

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[Utah's Matheson Takes to Twitter to Spread Positive Holiday Message](#)

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[Maine Provides Funding for Wetlands and Other Conservation Projects](#)

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[New Hampshire Awards \\$4.2 Million in Wetlands Protection Grants](#)

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[Pennsylvania to Invest in Two Stream Improvement Projects](#)



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# Need-to-Know News in Air & Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants

## U.S. EPA Signs Multiple Actions Related to NAAQS and NESHAP

*Area of Focus: Air*

On December 20, U.S. EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed five air-related actions. Please see below for a short summary of each action and follow the included links for more information.

- [Public Hearing and Reopening of Comment Period for Proposed Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, Extensions of the Attainment Date and Reclassification of Several Areas Classified as Moderate for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#) - EPA will hold a public hearing on **January 29**. Speakers can register for the meeting once the hearing notice is published in the *Federal Register*.
- [Minor Amendments to 2002 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants \(NESHAP\) for Friction Materials \(brake and clutch linings\) Manufacturing Facilities Finalized](#) - EPA finalized minor amendments including clarification that the standards apply during startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM), and made additions to deviation reporting requirements.
- [Amendments to the 2003 NESHAP for Surface Coating of Wood Building Products](#) - EPA finalized minor amendments including clarification that the standards apply during periods of SSM and requiring facilities to submit electronic compliance reports.
- [Minor Amendments to 2002 and 2003 NESHAP for Various Large Appliance, Metal Furniture, Fabrics Processes](#) - EPA finalized amendments to the existing

regulations to enhance the effectiveness of the rules, according to the agency. This action clarifies that the standards apply during periods of SSM, requires affected facilities to submit compliance reports and test results electronically, and requires performance tests every five years.

- Finalizing amendments to the NESHAP for Wet-Formed Fiberglass Mat Manufacturing - According to EPA, this action will improve monitoring, compliance, and implementation of the rule at no cost to industry.

[Poole]

## Five More PFAS to Undergo Toxicity Assessments

**Area of Focus:** Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants

U.S. EPA announced this week that the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Program will study the toxicity of five per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in 2019. In the IRIS Program Outlook, the agency lists PFNA, PFBA, PFHxA, PFHxS, and PFDA as having IRIS assessments under development. There are no projected dates for completion of the assessments.

The Outlook also notes that ETBE and tert-Butyl Alcohol are in the final peer review stage of IRIS assessment. In addition, the document states that inorganic arsenic, chromium VI, and PCBs will be studied. [Hanson]

## Trump Administration Unveils Action Plan on Childhood Lead Exposure

**Area of Focus:** Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants

U.S. EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler on December 19 joined with the heads of the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Health & Human Services to unveil the Trump Administration's *Federal Lead Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures and Associated Health Impacts*, available [here](#).

"The *Federal Lead Action Plan* will enhance the Trump Administration's efforts to identify and reduce lead contamination while ensuring children impacted by lead exposure are getting the support and care they need," said EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "EPA will develop an implementation plan by March 2019 that will enable us to track our

progress and update the public as we work to carry out the action plan and mitigate childhood lead exposure.”

Developed through cross-governmental collaboration of the President’s Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children, which includes 17 federal departments and offices, the action plan is a blueprint for reducing lead exposure and associated harms by working with a range of stakeholders, including states, tribes and local communities, according to EPA.

The four goals of the plan are:

- Goal 1: Reduce Children’s Exposure to Lead Sources
- Goal 2: Identify Lead-Exposed Children and Improve their Health Outcomes
- Goal 3: Communicate More Effectively with Stakeholders
- Goal 4: Support and Conduct Critical Research to Inform Efforts to Reduce Lead Exposures and Related Health Risks

[Parisien]

## **U.S. EPA Seeks Comments on TSCA Committee Nominees**

**Area of Focus:** Chemicals and Emerging Contaminants

U.S. EPA is requesting comments by **January 14** on the scientific experts nominated for *ad hoc* participation and possible membership on the Toxic Substances Control Act Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals.

For more information, see the [Federal Register notice requesting comments and the nominees’ biographies](#). [Parisien]



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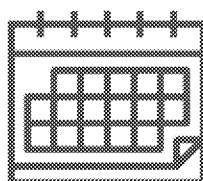
## MassDEP Permitting Webinar Recording Available

The E-Enterprise Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection permitting webinar recording is now available [here](#).

States are also encouraged to view the [Energy and Environmental Affairs Information and Public Access System storyboard](#) featured during the webinar that provides a summary of the project and accomplishments.

For more information, please contact [Victoria Phillips](#) of MassDEP. You can also engage further by starting or joining permitting conversations in the [E-Enterprise Community Inventory Platform](#). [Graves]

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## Upcoming Events

### Colorado State University on Oil & Gas Equivalency

For those interested in the ongoing ECOS Shale Gas Caucus effort to promote oil and gas alternative air compliance pathways, you may want to attend the Colorado State University (CSU) *Path to Equivalency Workshop*. The meeting is planned for **January 8-9** in Fort Collins, Colorado. Participants must RSVP for the event.

To reserve or to receive more information, contact [Kristine Bennett](#) of Colorado State University. [Parisien]

## **WOTUS Outreach Scheduled for January**

U.S. EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will provide engagement opportunities in January on the Waters of the U.S. proposed rule. The agencies will take comment on the proposal for 60 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.

EPA and the Army will hold an informational webcast on **January 10** and a listening session in Kansas City, Kansas on **January 23**. ECOS will share more information as it becomes available. [Piper]

## **U.S. EPA on CMAQ Enhancements**

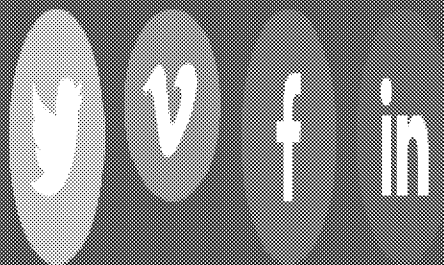
U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development will hold a Tools and Resources webinar on **January 16 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern** on recent enhancements to the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) Modeling System. CMAQ is a comprehensive state-of-the-science air pollution modeling system widely used worldwide to study local to hemispheric air pollution issues and guide development of air pollution abatement strategies.

To join the webinar, please register [here](#). If you are unable to listen through your computer speakers, please dial (866) 299-3188 and enter access code (202) 564-6669. Please contact Lisa Matthews [Lisa Matthews](#) of EPA for general information, or [Amy Scheuer](#) with registration questions. [Parisien]

## **ITRC on Managing LNAPL, Geospatial Analysis, and Fractured Rock**

ITRC is excited to release its 2019 online training schedule. All online training classes are free and open to everyone. In January 2019, ITRC is offering five classes on Managing LNAPL Sites, Geospatial Analysis, and Fractured Rock.

Learn more about ITRC's training program and register for classes [here](#). [Olonoff]



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